

Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1906.

How to Call The Times-Dispatch.

Persons wishing to communicate with
 The Times-Dispatch by telephone will ask
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 wish to speak.
 When calling between 9 A. M. and 9
 A. M. call to central office direct for
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Poverty is the only seasoner of
 felicity. Who believes that his cup
 is overflowing, but he who has rarely
 seen anything but the dry bottom of
 it?
 —Lowell.

The Basis of Virginia's Wealth.

In his address before the Farmers' In-
 stitute at Roanoke, President Johnson, of
 the Norfolk and Western Railroad, made
 the remarkable statement that there are
 twelve million acres of tillable, but un-
 tilled, lands within the borders of the
 State of Virginia, and that "every acre
 of this land, with intelligent, compre-
 hensive and energetic work, can produce a
 crop that will bring a profit to the man
 who engages in simply practical farm-
 ing."

That statement is hard to believe. The
 entire State of Virginia contains but
 27,000,000 acres of land. The State of
 Rhode Island contains less than 1,000,000;
 the State of Connecticut, only 3,000,000;
 the State of New Jersey only 8,000,000
 acres. But a man of Mr. Johnson's posi-
 tion and training would hardly make an
 inaccurate statement of this sort. He
 has doubtless thoroughly investigated the
 subject and knows whereof he speaks.

Think of it! Twelve million acres of
 productive lands that are not even un-
 der cultivation! If these lands should
 be cultivated and should produce an
 average of only \$10 an acre, the wealth
 of Virginia would be increased each year
 \$120,000,000. The total assessed value of
 lands, town lots, and buildings in the
 State of Virginia, exclusive of the cities,
 is only \$28,857,012, according to the assess-
 ment of 1902. Therefore, according to Mr.
 Johnson's statement, we have untilled
 lands capable of producing each year
 crops equal to more than half the value
 of all the lands in the State.

If such a statement does not stir up
 the Virginia authorities, nothing will.
 We are going to have a great exposition
 next year, and it should be our en-
 deavor to bring prominently to the at-
 tention of the whole world the wondrous
 advantages which Virginia offers to set-
 tlers. We should employ every possi-
 ble means to bring these waste lands
 under cultivation.

Again, Mr. Johnson called attention
 to the fact that many farmers living
 along the line of his road leave their
 farming implements in the field exposed
 to the elements and that others are at-
 tempting to cultivate their lands with
 poor, worn-out teams, which are not
 able to pull a plow. In short, that there
 is a lack of thrift, and a lack of sci-
 entific and business-like management in
 the cultivation of many farms. Therefore,
 it should be our endeavor by such meet-
 ings as that now in progress at Roanoke
 and by all means available to aid and
 instruct those who are already culti-
 vating Virginia lands. With our waste
 lands under export and scientific culti-
 vation, the farm products of Virginia
 would be increased many fold and the
 wealth of the State increased accordingly.

It is important that we build up
 our manufacturing industries and our
 commerce, but it is more important that
 we build up the agricultural industry
 and bring it up to the highest state of
 perfection. If we should do this, Vir-
 ginia would be one of the wealthiest and
 most prosperous of all the States of the
 Union.

The "Fertilizer Trust."

The newspapers of Virginia have given
 special prominence to the indictment of
 certain officers of the Virginia-Carolina
 Chemical Company for alleged violation
 of the Sherman anti-trust act, because
 this company is a local corporation, and
 readers of the newspapers are naturally
 interested in all affairs having a local
 bearing. But the Virginians are very
 few as compared with the large number
 of such officers who have been arrested
 elsewhere upon similar charges. It must
 also be considered that an indictment is
 by no means equivalent to a conviction,
 and those who intimately know the
 officers of the Virginia-Carolina Chemi-
 cal Company do not for one moment be-
 lieve that they are criminally guilty of
 any violation of law. If they are guilty
 at all, they are only so in a technical
 sense; certainly not in any immoral
 sense.

The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Com-
 pany is called a trust, but it is not so
 in fact. It does not by any manner of
 means monopolize the manufacture of
 fertilizers, and this paper was long ago
 assured by the Commissioner of Agri-
 culture that the farmers had been ben-
 efitied by the organization and operation
 of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Com-
 pany in getting a better article of fer-
 tilizer at a reduced price. A year or so
 back the writer of this article had occa-
 sion to interview a citizen of Virginia
 who was operating an independent fer-

tilizer factory. He stated that his busi-
 ness was prosperous, and that he found
 little difficulty in selling to his neighbors
 all the fertilizers his plant could pro-
 duce. He was then asked if the Chemical
 Company had in any way interfered with
 him or undertaken to injure his business
 by means so often employed by
 trusts. He promptly replied that, on the
 contrary, the so-called Fertilizer Trust
 had been very kind to him and had
 helped instead of hindering him in
 conducting his business.

The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Com-
 pany has had its ups and downs and a
 few years ago was caught in the money
 squeeze then prevailing, and was fleeced
 by the money lenders. But it has built
 up good business, it is giving employment
 to large numbers of men throughout the
 South, its officers exert themselves to
 gain and retain the good will of the
 farmers, and the statement just issued
 for the fiscal year ended May 31st shows
 that the earnings were good, that the
 company has been able to meet all its
 obligations, pay its operating expenses,
 interest on its bonds, dividend on its
 preferred stock, set aside \$200,000 for con-
 tingencies and carry a comfortable sur-
 plus.

These statements seem to show the Times-
 Dispatch to be due to a reputable South-
 ern enterprise and the officers who con-
 duct its affairs.

The Cry of the Stockholders.

The New York Tribune says:
 "A movement has been begun, it is said,
 by minority stockholders of the Michi-
 gan Central Railroad Company, one of
 the lines of the New York Central Sys-
 tem, to obtain larger dividends on their
 holdings. The New York Central took
 over the control of the property in 1888,
 paying 115 per cent. in its own 3-1/2 per
 cent. bonds for the stock, of which it
 now owns \$10,514,200; the outstanding
 minority stock amounting to only \$1,
 215,700. The dividend paid is only 4 per
 cent. a year, and the minority holders,
 among whom are some large estates, fig-
 ure that the rate is excessive, about 25
 per cent. yearly, and believe that they
 should receive as much as 8 or 10 per
 cent. Several similar movements for
 larger dividend distribution to minority
 stockholders of railway corporations have
 of late been brought to a successful is-
 sue."

Many stockholders are declaring that
 they are not getting a square deal. They
 have waited patiently for returns on their
 investment, while the directors have been
 turning earnings into betterments and
 surplus funds. It is said that some roads
 even purchase real estate with their sur-
 plus earnings, and charge the same to
 operating expenses. The stockholders
 are now chafing a bit. They argue that
 if they are not to receive their fair
 share of the earnings in such prosperous
 times as these roads are now enjoying,
 when may they expect to participate?
 They are not willing to give everything
 to prosperity. Moreover, their conten-
 tion is emphasized by the popular cry
 that the railroads are making too much
 money and that rates must be reduced.

The directors have pursued a wise policy
 in using a goodly portion of the sur-
 plus earnings for betterments, and all
 railroad properties have been greatly
 strengthened and enhanced in value by
 that expedient. But it seems to be not
 unreasonable that the stockholders should
 now ask for a more generous distribu-
 tion in the form of cash dividends.

Pollard's Code.

The 1906 edition of Pollard's Code Biennial,
 edited by John Garland Pollard, of
 the Richmond bar, has just made its ap-
 pearance. The expert opinion of all who
 have seen the volume is that it is beyond
 comparison the best Code the State has
 ever had. The author's purpose is to
 publish a new volume of this work bi-
 ennially, after each session of the General
 Assembly. The Code is therefore cumu-
 lative in character; the 1906 edition
 supersedes that of 1904, so that one vol-
 ume will meet all the needs of the in-
 vestigator.

The general aim of this important work
 is to collect and classify all statutes of
 a general and permanent character now
 in force in Virginia, to give the con-
 struction placed upon such statutes by
 the courts, and to provide appropriate
 references to comments in text-books and
 legal periodicals. One hundred and
 eighty-one sections of the Code were
 amended by the last General Assembly,
 and sixty-nine acts of a general and per-
 manent nature were enacted. All these
 are set down in accessible form here.
 The Code is thus a ready and reliable
 guide to the law as it now is, the an-
 notations and cross references proving of
 great assistance and convenience. The
 Index is an especially noteworthy fea-
 ture. Prepared by the trained staff of the
 Century Digest, it makes use of main
 and sub-heads familiar to all the Vir-
 ginia bar, supplementing these with nu-
 merous cross-reference heads. The vol-
 ume as a whole gives evidence of care,
 thoroughness and skill in preparation;
 it should prove almost indispensable to
 the Virginia lawyer and very useful to men
 of affairs.

Mr. Pollard is to be congratulated on
 having discharged his task so creditably,
 and thanked for providing his fellow-
 practitioners with so helpful and nec-
 essary a work.

"Carry Me Back to Old Virginia."

The following inspiring letter is from
 the pen of Mr. H. W. Ball, editor of the
 Vicksburg American:
 Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir, "Virginia must have, and will have,
 a home-coming celebration next year."
 I hope that these words of "The Times-
 Dispatch" were read by every patriotic
 all over the land with the same thrill
 of enthusiastic acquiescence which they
 awakened in my heart.

If all the wanderers who love and honor,
 and have taught their children to love
 and honor, the old and rich valley of the
 Kentucky, the Jameson, the Expel-
 lion would be an occasion of such en-
 thusiasm as the country has never known
 before; for the qualities of patriotism and
 love of native land that are so strong in
 Virginia, are found in all their pristine
 strength in the hearts of all Virginians.

This love of Virginians for Virginia, even
 after a lifetime of absence—even upon
 succeeding generations—is the very prin-
 ciple of patriotism; that divine fire that
 has brought greatness and freedom to the
 people of every nation inspired by it.
 It is quality which, in the citizen of
 America, as a citizen of America, is weak-

ened by the very immensity of the coun-
 try. A Virginian, wherever his lot may
 be cast, is a Virginian first and an
 American afterwards. He loves America
 broadly and a little vaguely. With a more
 definite affection he loves the South, the
 North, the East, or the West. But al-
 ways with a deeper, stronger, clearer
 devotion he loves Virginia. It, and it
 alone, is home. It is

"The central point, from which he meas-
 ures every distance."
 Through the gateways of the world
 around him."

He is proud of the greatness, the wealth
 and power of the American nation, of
 course; but his love for Virginia is the
 patriotism of the Frenchman, the Eng-
 lishman, the Swede, or Scot, or Irishman—
 the feeling that brings a lump into the
 throat and a longing to the heart when
 the beloved name is spoken, under alien
 skies.

Throughout the land—in Maine, Califor-
 nia or Florida—the mention of a Virginia
 name or the sound of a Virginia voice
 is to a Virginian an assurance that he
 has found a friend, a compatriot, possibly
 a kinsman; for blessed be the Virginia
 spirit that recognizes the tie of blood,
 even through many intervening genera-
 tions.

Let us go back. Let us once again
 listen to the familiar speech, and clap
 hands as brothers with the representa-
 tives of honored names. Let us stand
 together once more on the beloved soil
 of Virginia, while around us blows the
 sweet air, and above us bends the blue
 sky of the land from which our feet, but
 not our hearts, have wandered.

HENRY WARING BALL.

Vicksburg, Miss.

That is a beautiful tribute to the Old
 Dominion, and shows how she is beloved
 in all parts of the Union. It indicates
 also what a glorious home-coming the
 Virginia home-coming will be. It is
 something to look forward to with de-
 lightful anticipation by the wanderers
 and the folks at home who will receive
 them with open arms.

Good Cheer from Fredericksburg.

The Fredericksburg Star says that the
 report of the Finance Committee of the
 Council shows not only faithfulness and
 efficiency in the collecting officers, but
 good and conservative business manage-
 ment on the part of the committee. "It
 gives evidence too," adds our contem-
 porary, "of increase in population and
 in taxable values. It shows more sub-
 stantial matter for taxation and a higher
 value of these subject matters. It shows
 also that the water and gas works are
 profitable investments and a good busi-
 ness management of them. Indeed, in
 all of the departments of our city gov-
 ernment there is shown by this report
 a splendid condition. The harvest in
 the future can only be progress and pros-
 perity."

The Virginia towns are now all so
 prosperous that it goes without saying
 that Fredericksburg is participating, and
 the fact thus indicated in the report of
 the Finance Committee is not remarka-
 ble. But in this day of graft and cor-
 ruption it is pleasant and reassuring
 to know that the municipal affairs of the
 ancient but progressive town of Fred-
 ericksburg are faithfully and efficiently
 administered. It strengthens faith and
 contributes to State pride.

The South's Labor Force.

The labor situation in the South has
 reached the critical stage. A railroad
 conductor in Alabama says that he
 knows of a field of 900 acres of cotton
 which has not been touched by a hoe
 this season. Another man remarks that
 it is not a question of paying higher
 wages to farm laborers, but of getting
 laborers at any price.

"Some may say," remarks the Mobile
 Register, "that the negroes are leaving
 because they are ill treated, but this
 is certainly not so. The farmers' inter-
 est everywhere is to treat the negroes
 well. The fact is that the negroes are
 too well treated—that is, too well paid—
 they can live without working more than
 a portion of the time, and it is urged to
 work they find it easy to move and get
 wages elsewhere. Owing to high prices
 and the demand for labor, the negroes
 are becoming more and more untrust-
 worthy. They cannot be relied upon to
 stay by contracts or to do anything like
 a fair amount of work. The attraction
 of wages six days a week is not suffi-
 cient to induce them to work. The ac-
 cution is in foreign immigration."

There is no choice about it. The South
 must have foreign labor, whether or not
 it is preferable.

But the statement of the Register that
 the negroes are suffering from too much
 prosperity will hardly be credited at the
 North.

Senator Dick urges Mr. Longworth as
 chairman of the Ohio Republican con-
 vention. They might do worse. As a cam-
 paign slogan, "Dick and Nick" strikes
 us as all to the mustard.

The wedding of Senator Crane is de-
 scribed as "very simple," as if that were
 anything. All weddings are simple, the
 complicatedness not making its appear-
 ance till shortly afterward.

With no definite information on the
 subject, it seems safe to say that that
 Rockefeller book will be of the novel
 type.

As to the presidential race, Mr. Taft
 says to count him as thoroughly put
 out. This was at Put-In-Bay, at that.

A Virginia family ate a dish of snaps
 and were all poisoned. Moral: Don't be
 snappish in the dog-days.

Mr. Thaw thanks the public for its kind
 inquiries, and replies that he is no
 crazier than usual.

John D. Rockefeller is reported as trav-
 eling incognito in France. We presume
 that John has omitted his wig.

Hitherto when Mr. Rockefeller wrote
 books, they have always been check
 books.

Thus, from being regarded as a quib-
 bler, Mr. Rockefeller becomes an ac-
 quitted.

As the New York alienists would now
 put it—Cust be the Tighe that blinds.

Undertired by the warm weather, South
 America continues to revolute right along.

Gauzy weather again.

Dry Dr. Dewey has hit the Philippines.



Rhymes for To-Day

Another Lie Nailed.
 LAUGH and the world giggles with
 you—
 So runs the maxim.

D'jever try this on your Kith?—You
 Wonder what ladies 'em.

Gather your family round your
 Bed for a heating.

Mention a joke—Have you found you're
 Greeted with cheering?

Are not the dear features chilly,
 Hinting at boredom?

As to the grip, willy-nilly,
 You would afford 'em?

Well, go ahead with your story,
 Shout at the finish,

Glance at their faces and—Glory
 Mel' such a dryness!

Roar till you shiver the rather
 If you can bear to—

Nobody laughs with your laughter
 If they don't care to.

Laugh and the world tilts with you—
 So runs the adage:

Tried it on some of your Kith, you?
 Ain't it a badcase?

(An unknown lady sends us the ap-
 pointed highly appreciated ode. Unhappily,
 the poem is as nameless as its author; so
 we have christened it—the poem, silly—
 simply yet tastefully.)

Who is H. S. H. that gives us
 A poem each day?

Oh, he's a most useful and witty,
 But sometimes distant.

They take in politics and the weather,
 The men of renown.

He seems hand and glove with them, gives us
 In the time of the town.

Here's one on the order of them,
 To whom could that be?

The phone girl who sends crowns of laurel
 When he writes of the town.

I would tell him quite plainly my motive
 In reading his rhyme.

'Tis a way, easy, quick and diverting,
 To keep up with the Times.

Merely Joking.

Exceedingly Good.—"Yes, Hunter is
 really engaged to Miss Roxley." "So he
 was telling me. He says she's not very
 pretty, but she's good." "Yes, good for
 a million in her own right."—Philadelphia
 Ledger.

The Sea-Widow.—"The 'ideal' ex-
 claimed the first megaphone, 'What's all
 that green stuff on your head?' 'Oh!'
 exclaimed the other, 'I don't know. It
 was my husband's death?' 'These are my
 widow's sea-weeds.'—Philadelphia Press.

Not Long Unattached.—"The last time
 I passed through here," said the traveling
 man, "she was grieving for her hus-
 band, who had just died. I suppose she's
 not a question of paying higher
 wages to farm laborers, but of getting
 laborers at any price."

"Some may say," remarks the Mobile
 Register, "that the negroes are leaving
 because they are ill treated, but this
 is certainly not so. The farmers' inter-
 est everywhere is to treat the negroes
 well. The fact is that the negroes are
 too well treated—that is, too well paid—
 they can live without working more than
 a portion of the time, and it is urged to
 work they find it easy to move and get
 wages elsewhere. Owing to high prices
 and the demand for labor, the negroes
 are becoming more and more untrust-
 worthy. They cannot be relied upon to
 stay by contracts or to do anything like
 a fair amount of work. The attraction
 of wages six days a week is not suffi-
 cient to induce them to work. The ac-
 cution is in foreign immigration."

Good Ladies' Horse.—"You told me he
 was a good lad, and he was," said the
 man who had made the purchase.
 "He was," replied the dealer. "My wife
 owned him, and she's one of the best
 women I ever knew."—Chicago Record-
 Herald.

What Are Just and Reasonable Rates?

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir—So far as I am able to compre-
 hend the utterances of the "Evening
 Journal" in its editorial of the 6th, en-
 titled "Railway Investments," and the
 editorial of the 10th, entitled "Col. Talcott
 and Danville," it seems to entertain the
 idea that the management of some of
 our Virginia railroads, and especially
 the Richmond and Danville, which is now
 a part of the Southern Railway, after
 having over-capitalized the properties com-
 posed of the line, are endeavoring to
 extort from the public, to serve their
 personal ends and make money for them-
 selves individually, now claim the right
 to force high rates upon the public ser-
 vice they perform, in order to secure in-
 terest on such over-capitalization, and
 thereby oppress the public.

It is to be regretted that at this time,
 when the government of the United
 States, as well as the State governments,
 are exerting all of their constitutional
 powers for the protection of the public
 against undue exactions of corporations,
 and especially against extortion and dis-
 crimination in rates by common carriers,
 that the public against corporations should
 be unnecessarily inflamed.

It may safely be assumed that the rail-
 way commissions, both State and Fed-
 eral, exercising the legislative powers
 delegated to them for the protection of the
 public, are endeavoring to prevent the
 extortion and discrimination in rates, and
 on the other hand, the railway com-
 panies can safely rely on the courts to
 protect their property.

The Supreme Court of the United States
 has already decided in no uncertain
 terms:

First—That the public is entitled to de-
 mand that no more be exacted from it
 than the public than the services
 rendered by it are reasonably worth.

Second—That the company is entitled to
 ask a fair return for the value of that
 which it employs for the public con-
 venience.

It has gone farther, and laid down the
 principle that the value of railway
 property used in public is to be de-
 termined, so that the value of the prop-
 erty is not to be capitalized, which the
 railway companies may have
 seen fit for any reason to adopt.

It is also to be hoped that while there
 is no more discrimination in rates, some
 one will take the trouble to

ascertain the relative proportion of trans-
 portation charges on different commodi-
 ties to their market value. If this were
 known, discussion of the probable effect
 of reduction in rates on stimulating
 business would be conducted on a more in-
 telligent basis, and many useless con-
 troversies avoided on the principle of
 "de minimis non curat lex."

T. M. R. TALCOTT.

Richmond, Va.

The "Battle Abbey."

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
 Sir—Much has been said in reference
 to the site for the "Battle Abbey," and
 it has been a subject of serious consid-
 eration now that the time is drawing
 near for the selection of a site for the
 monument to the British and Foreign
 legions of others, the proper place for it
 is the southeast corner of Eighth and
 Grace, within a stone's throw of our
 metropolis, and in a most desirable
 situation, with so many historic memories
 cherished by every one who naturally
 feels just pride in the past and the
 beautiful, healthy environment.

It was there, in the dear old Capitol,
 that our Confederate Congress held its
 stormy sessions, and the gathering of
 assemblies that were marked by men
 of note and I may say of national re-
 pute. This lot, with the adjoining prop-
 erty, having been sold to the Episcopal
 parsonage, adjoining the time-honored St.
 Paul's Church, the place of worship of
 General R. E. Lee, President Jefferson
 Davis, and others, now all his cap-
 tivity, renders the site especially attractive
 and peculiarly fitting for the "Battle
 Abbey," the golden lot, and the corner
 of Grace, on one of the handsomest
 streets in our city. The frontage re-
 ferred to represents 150 feet, which, with
 the adjoining property, would afford a
 depth of 150 feet, offering an oppor-
 tunity without a parallel for the site
 of a building of considerable size, and
 of a most desirable and splendid site,
 as the square estate would be an
 ornament to our city, never to be
 marred by inferior buildings. In the
 future, it is confidently expected.

Richmond, Va.

JOLLY BONIFACES.

Closed the Day's Session With a Banquet at Pine Beach.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
 NORFOLK, Va., July 11.—A banquet
 at the Ocean View Hotel this evening was
 the finale of the day for the members of
 the Virginia Bonifaces Association, now
 here. The banquet was tendered
 the visitors by Mr. Charles H. Conover,
 president of the association, and the
 restoration of the Jefferson Hotel, Rich-
 mond, was a guest at the banquet. The
 hotel men talked shop for a while to-
 day at the Pine Beach Hotel, and the
 balance of the time they spent in the